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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NEW DELHI 007777

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DEPT FOR S/CT, SA, CA

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [PINR](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [CJAN](#) [IN](#) [PK](#) [NP](#) [GOI](#)

SUBJECT: HOME SECRETARY UPBEAT ABOUT DECLINE IN TERRORISM,  
LOOKS FORWARD TO CT JOINT WORKING GROUP

Classified By: Ambassador David C. Mulford for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

1. (U) ACTION REQUEST FOR S/CT IN PARA 8.

2. (C) Summary: In an October 3 meeting with the Ambassador following an MLAT signing ceremony, Home Secretary VK Duggal was moderately upbeat over the security situation in Kashmir, noting that the situation was calm enough for the valley to welcome a record number of tourists last summer. However, Duggal expressed concern that, although the number and intensity of incidents in Kashmir were down, the camps in Pakistan were still active. He indicated that a number of infiltrators captured recently were from other parts of Pakistan, not Kashmir, and suggested that the Delhi cinema bomber may have trained in Lahore. Duggal welcomed the appointment of the Department's new counter-terrorism coordinator and urged that the Joint Working Group on Terrorism be re-energized. He also indicated that his staff would soon provide the Embassy with a new list of terrorist organizations that India felt were actually fronts for other organizations already on the UN's terrorism list. Duggal expressed his sympathy for the victims of hurricane Katrina and stressed the importance of continuing to work together to develop our disaster response capability. End Summary.

MLAT Signing

3. (U) Ambassador Mulford met October 3 with Duggal both before and after a brief signing ceremony to exchange Instruments of Ratification of the US - India Mutual Legal Assistance Treaty. Also present were PV Bhide, Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), Sanjay

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Bhattacharyya, since-departed Director of the Americas Division at the Ministry of External Affairs, and William Bartlett, Minister Counselor for Consular Affairs (notetaker).

Kashmir Terrorist Infrastructure Still in Place

4. (C) In response to the Ambassador's question about the situation in Kashmir, Secretary Duggal replied that his office was hard at work implementing the confidence building measures agreed between India and Pakistan. He indicated that there had been some terrorist incidents, but that he did not see the CBMs as linked to these events. Overall, Duggal said, the number of infiltrations and attacks were down, commenting that Kashmir had welcomed 400,000 tourists (a new record) and 370,000 pilgrims this year, largely without incident. Duggal also said he anticipated there might be a further exchange of detainees soon.

5. (C) The Home Secretary noted that a number of the infiltrators captured recently were from other areas within Pakistan and not Pakistani Kashmir, and commented that the perpetrator of New Delhi's May 22 cinema bombings may have trained in Lahore. He also observed that terrorist training camps were still operating and that the reduction in infiltration may have as much to do with India's increased effectiveness in patrolling the Line of Control, as with any Pakistani effort to reduce the flow. According to Duggal, India also continues to see infiltration through other borders, including those with Nepal and Bangladesh. The Ambassador assured Duggal that President Bush continues to push President Musharraf to close the training camps.

Nepal Border Concerns

6. (C) The Ambassador also asked about instability in Nepal and any possible spillover into India. Duggal observed that India has historically had an open border with Nepal with a free flow of people in both directions, but that he had no evidence of Nepalese Maoist activity in India. He expressed concern that Pakistan might use Nepal as a route for infiltration, but did not elaborate.

Ready to Renew CT Coordination

7. (C) Duggal noted favorably the recent appointment of

Henry Crumpton as the Department's new Counter-Terrorism Coordinator and said India was anxious to re-energize the Joint Counter-Terrorism Working Group. The next meeting is due to be held in Washington, and India would like to begin planning for this event. In this context, Duggal noted that the GOI had developed a list, which it has recently shared with the UK, of new cover organizations created by organizations already on the "Terrorism List." He promised to provide the Embassy with a copy of these new names and sought the USG's support in adding them to the "formal" list. (Note: We assume this refers to the UN 1267 Sanctions List of Taliban and al-Qaeda affiliates. End Note)

18. (U) ACTION REQUEST FOR S/CT: Please give us a time frame for the next meeting of the JCTWG to share with the GOI.

#### Disaster Preparation

19. (SBU) Finally, Duggal expressed his condolences on the losses associated with hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and suggested this made cooperation between India and the US on disaster preparation and planning even more important than ever. He said that India was close to enacting new legislation that would reorganize India's disaster response capability, clearly delegating responsibility down to the lowest local level. The Home Secretary noted ongoing US - India cooperation on disaster planning and hoped that it would continue and increase.

Comment: Welcome Optimism

10. (C) Duggal's optimistic assessment of improving security in Kashmir and reduced terrorism reflects the confidence that is essential to New Delhi's continued engagement in the Indo-Pak peace process, but as Duggal observed to visiting US Ambassador to Pakistan Crocker on October 4, this confidence could still be shattered by acts like the July 5 Ayodhya attack. Duggal's comment that MHA does not see evidence of Nepalese Maoist activity in India stands in stark contrast to security forces' public claims of joint Indian-Nepalese insurgent training camps and operations in the rural districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar states. Post plans to visit some of these districts in October to assess these claims.

11. (U) Visit New Delhi's Classified Website:  
(<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/sa/newdelhi/>)  
Mulford